

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 106

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the life of Marcellus Brooks of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this body take great pride in paying respectful tribute to the legacy of those Tennesseans who went above and beyond the call of duty to serve their fellow citizens during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, one such individual was the late Marcellus Brooks of Nashville, who was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mr. Brooks attended Hamilton High School before pursuing his Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Fisk University and obtaining a master's from New York University in conjunction with the University of Madrid; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these impressive credentials, he continued his studies through doctoral coursework at the University of Illinois and Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, his advanced education served him well in his lifelong career as Assistant Professor of Spanish at Fisk University, where he also served as Chair and Director of the Modern Language Department, Director of the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts, and University Marshall; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks also spearheaded the Fisk Study Abroad Program in 1974, which began with a trip to Mexico City and has since led students to academic opportunities throughout Africa, Dominican Republic, South America, Italy, and Estudio Sampere in Salamanca, Spain; and

WHEREAS, an active member of the community, Marcellus Brooks assisted in the development of North Edgefield Organized Neighbors (NEON), which offers tutoring, art programs, summer job programs, and outreach programs for local youth; he continued his

dedication to this worthy cause through his positions as board chair and Cub Master for the organization's Cub Scout Troop; and

WHEREAS, he further demonstrated his commitment to the community through his membership in various organizations, such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, The Agora Assembly, The Optimist Club, The Nashville Sons of Africa, and The Meharry, Fisk, and Tennessee State University Faculty Breakfast Club; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian all his life, Mr. Brooks was a founding member of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church and one of the original members of the Ecclesiastical Council; and

WHEREAS, the rich and bountiful life of this extraordinary man was surely a fitting tribute to his beloved parents, the late Roosevelt Brooks and Beatrice Hibbler Brooks, and his sisters, the late Martha Disroe and Katie Brooks; and

WHEREAS, Marcellus Brooks leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, compassion, and dedication to be forever cherished by his devoted wife of thirty-eight years, Lula Vaughn Brooks; his son, Marcellus Vaughn Brooks; his sisters, Elnora Hill and Corean Jackson; and his longtime friend and colleague, Dr. Lucius Turner Outlaw, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate on this special occasion that we honor the memory and legacy of Marcellus Brooks of Nashville; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the life of Marcellus Brooks, reflecting fondly on his many years of service to the students, faculty, and administration of Fisk University and his commitment to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens throughout Nashville and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.